

# **WASHINGTON STATE FIRE DEFENSE COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**September 16, 2008**

**Vancouver, Washington**

A regular meeting of the Washington State Fire Defense Committee was held on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 1000.

Present at the meeting were:

Central Region:	Tedd Hendershot, Steven North
Lower Columbia Region	Dave Leitch
Mid Columbia Region	Randy Johnson, Dale Bjork
Northeast Region	Bruce Holloway
Northwest Region	Glenn Brautaset
Olympic Region	Allen Knobbs
South Puget Sound Region	Dan Smith
Southeast Region	Grant Baynes
Southwest Region	Dave LaFave Tom McDowell
WSP Fire Protection Bureau	Dan Johnson, Sue Carr, Paul Perz, Esther Hernandez
DNR	Joe Shramek
EMD	
FPPB	Mark Kahley
Guests:	Tod Gates,

Chair Dave LaFave called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

## **MINUTES**

There was no action taken on the minutes of the previous meeting.

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## **REPORTS**

### **Department of Natural Resources - Joe Shramek**

Joe passed out a preliminary data sheet on the number of wildfire responses for DNR - protected lands by DNR Region for 2008 . Joe reported that the preliminary data indicate that DNR is meeting its performance target of containing >93% of its fires at less than 10 acres in size.

▪ **Fire Protection Policy Board – Mark Kahley**

Mark advised the Committee that the report required by the Legislature from the Forest Fire Prevention and Protection Work Group on wildland fire issues has been completed in draft form. Five recommendations are the focus of the report. They are:

- Fire Prevention and Protection Funding;
- Statewide Adoption of the International Code Council Wildland Urban Interface Code;
- Responsibilities and Liability of Improved Property Owners in Unprotected Forested Areas for Fire Suppression Expenses;
- Prescribed Fire; and
- Blue Ribbon Panel of Evaluate Non-Market Costs and Benefits of Increasing Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention

▪ **Washington Interagency Incident Management Team Geographic Board - Joe Shramek**

The Board has not dealt with anything unusual so far this season. The new procedure for shadow assignments has been tested this summer and it appears that it is working well. There were twelve team assignments, including two to incidents in Oregon. Joe also mentioned that for the first time an Oregon interagency incident management team was requested and used on a Washington fire at a time when the five WIIMTs were committed.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Gap Analysis**

A report on the comparison between the Washington State Fire Service Resources Mobilization Plan and the International Fire Chiefs Association Intrastate Mutual Aid Plan has been completed by Dan Johnson and passed out to the committee.

The purpose of this analysis is to identify those items we can redo in our plan to bring the two plans into concert with each other. It is hoped that ultimately it will lead to a interstate mutual aid plan that will aid in interstate assistance in a planned and timely manner.

Dan also passed out a mobilization plan /update form requesting Committee members to submit suggestions on plan changes. Chair LaFave suggested that this be an item for work at the October meeting.

### **Mobilization Report**

Dan distributed a report of the mobilization fires to date this year. It will be available in power point presentation via email.

### **Resource Commitment**

There was discussion regarding the relief of mobilized resources after 3 days. This has presented some problems to a team when it is not known that certain resources would need

to be demobed in 72 hours. It was noted that some east side agencies need to have their initial attack resources back as soon as possible and are not able to commit to 7 - 14 day assignments. It was agreed to address this issue at the October meeting.

### Type 3 Organization and Qualifications

Considerable discussion was had regarding the issue of whether All-Hazard Teams were qualified to manage wildland fires. The general consensus was that a regional type 3 team may be capable of managing a type 3 wildland incident, but since we operate under NWCG 310-1 guidelines, for legal and liability reasons we are obligated to have the IC, an OSC and a SOF qualified at the type 3 level under NWCG on the incident.

Ways to do this were suggested such as; working in conjunction with the DNR for these resources, obtaining these qualified resources locally or from other areas, developing team members to obtain the required qualifications and exploring the cross-walk process for credentialing folks to meet the requirements.

Lafave asked Shramek whether DNR would assist with qualified personnel. Shramek replied that when requested DNR would make personnel available at the time of need but will not commit them as permanent members of standing all-hazard Type 3 teams. He noted DNR's current commitment of over 125 employees to the five Type 2 IMTs. He said that the Type 2 teams are also available for incidents of all sorts, but their predominant requests for use on wildfires aligns more closely with DNR's legislatively-determined mission for protecting private and state forest lands. He noted that DNR and WSP have an interagency agreement by which WSP can order overhead resources from DNR.

McDowell made a motion that for the present regional type 3 teams that desire to participate in state mobilization for wildfire incidents will have an NWCG qualified IC, OSC and SOF as part of the team. And that the SFDC will work on the cross walk procedure and the appropriate credentialing process for team members to meet this need. The motion was seconded by Steve North. The motion carried.

Further discussion on the matter clarified if a team does not have someone to fill these positions or cannot locate someone upon request for activation that information must be conveyed to the SFMO so they can attempt to locate someone qualified to accompany the team in these positions.

It was agreed that the utilization of Type 3 teams in mobilization be made part of the Fire Mobilization Plan and work would begin on this at the October meeting.

No further business coming before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1400.

The next meeting will be held in October in Spokane area